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space occupied by the grid at selected locations in this space, so that the grid is defined at the time the data is being entered. A grid can be and is defined by the prior art as a *framework* into which data can be entered at selected locations after the grid is defined. A grid can have definition separate from the data that is entered in the grid. This is what is disclosed by the Schwuttke et al. reference and many others.

In contrast, in the present invention, the grid gets definition from the data values of the grid. Although the *space* occupied by the grid of interest can be occupied by many other grids that are not defined, the grid of interest becomes defined only from the data values in the grid. These data values are not *entered* into a grid because for something to be entered into something, the second something must be defined before it is possible for the first something to make entry or be entered. Rather, in Applicants' invention, the data values of the grid define the grid.

Another way of expressing the difference between prior art grids, such as disclosed by the Schwuttke et al. reference, and the grid of the present invention is that the coordinate systems of the prior art grids are selected arbitrarily to suit the purposes or needs of the user, while for the present invention, the coordinate system of the grid is based on and determined by the data of the grid. For example, the user of a Schwuttke et al. grid may choose coordinates in all three of the X, Y, and Z directions spaced apart by  $\frac{1}{2}$ " or 1" or  $\frac{1}{2}$ " in the X direction,  $\frac{3}{4}$ " in the Y direction, and 1" in the Z direction, the choice being dependent on how the user thinks the grid can be best used. Then, after the grid has been defined, data is entered at specific locations or coordinates in the grid.

In contrast, in the present invention, the relative dispositions or spacings of the coordinates of the grid and the locations or coordinates of the data of the grid are based on the data values of the grid.

Yet another way of expressing the difference between prior art grids, such as disclosed by the Schwuttke et al. reference, and the grid of the present invention is that in the prior art grids, the grid is defined at locations within the coordinate system whether or not data has been entered, whereas, in the present invention, the grid is defined only at coordinates where data is located. In the present invention, the coordinates of the grid are dependent on and determined by

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the data that is in the grid. As the data is generated, the grid of the present invention gets definition. In the present invention, there is no grid framework, prior to the generation of the data, into which the data is entered as there is in the prior art grids, such as the Schwutke et al. grid.

The basic differences between the present invention and the Schwutke et al. reference that are explained above are specified in independent claims 1, 2, 5, 6, 9, 13, and 14 by the recitations of

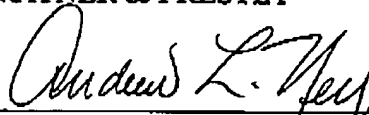
generating a grid based on a plurality of data values

In summary, in the present invention, no grid is defined in the absence of the data values of the grid. In the Schwutke et al. reference, a grid is defined prior to the data values being entered into the grid.

In view of the foregoing remarks, this application is in condition for allowance which action is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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